



November 16, 2021

Colonel James Booth  
District Commander, Jacksonville  
United States Army Corps of Engineers  
701 San Marco Blvd  
Jacksonville, FL 32207

The Honorable Mitch Landrieu  
Senior Advisor to the President for  
Infrastructure Coordination  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Colonel Booth and Mr. Landrieu:

I am writing to you in strong support of the Jacksonville Port Authority's (JAXPORT) request for federal channel dredging operation and maintenance funding. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Jacksonville District is tasked with maintaining authorized depths of the St. Johns River for maritime traffic in Jacksonville, Florida.

Jacksonville Port (JAXPORT) is Florida's largest container port and its location at the nexus of our nation's highway and rail network makes it a vital seaport to support our nation's supply chain and growing economy. Indeed, the port already receives cargo from 140 ports in more than 70 countries and is serviced by 100 trucking firms and 40 trains daily from two Class I railroads and additional regional rail. With these intermodal connections, cargo can reach nearly 100 million consumers in a single day.

Maintenance dredging of the federal navigation channel is essential to ensure that JAXPORT can continue to receive Panamax and post-Panamax vessels – large container ships that can affordably and efficiently transport cargo from ports across Asia through the Panama Canal to the Eastern United States. This is especially important to maintain and grow its vehicle handling capabilities, with more than 600,000 vehicles delivered in 2020.

I am pleased to know USACE is ahead of schedule for an authorized dredging to deepen the waterway from 40 feet, up to 50 feet and that an 11-mile project has been completed to increase the depth to 47 feet. The port authority has identified specific operations and maintenance projects that it believes will provide the necessary support for larger ships to process more goods through this busy east coast port.

I respectfully urge you to give full and fair consideration to their request and work with JAXPORT and the relevant stakeholders to support their funding priorities.

Sincerely,

Val B. Demings  
Member of Congress

CC: Ms. Stacey Brown, Chief of Programs, USACE  
Mr. Alvin Lee, Director of Civil Works, USACE